



An Act Concerning Safe Havens.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) The Division of State Police and each local police
2 department and hospital operating an emergency room shall designate
3 an employee to take physical custody of an infant pursuant to section 2
4 of this act. There shall be a designated employee on duty at each state
5 police barracks, local police station and hospital emergency room
6 during regular business hours. There shall be a designated place inside
7 such state police barracks, local police station or hospital emergency
8 room where physical custody may be taken.

9 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) An employee designated pursuant to section 1 of
10 this act shall take physical custody of any infant thirty days or younger
11 if the parent or lawful agent of the parent voluntarily surrenders
12 physical custody of the infant to such designated employee unless the
13 parent or agent clearly expresses an intent to return for the infant.

14 (b) The designated employee who takes physical custody of an
15 infant under this section shall perform any act necessary to protect the
16 physical health or safety of the infant and shall be immune from
17 liability for any injury to the infant that may result from any such act
18 except for acts or omissions constituting gross, wilful or wanton
19 negligence.

20 (c) The designated employee may request the parent or agent to
21 provide the name of the parent or agent and information on the
22 medical history of the infant. The parent or agent is not required to
23 provide such name or information. The designated employee may
24 provide the parent or agent with a numbered identification bracelet to
25 link the parent or agent to the infant. The bracelet shall be used for
26 identification only and shall not be construed to authorize the person
27 who possesses the bracelet to take custody of the infant on demand.
28 The designated employee shall provide the parent or agent with a
29 pamphlet describing the process established under this act.

30 Sec. 3. (NEW) (a) Not more than twenty-four hours after taking
31 physical custody of the infant the designated employee shall notify the
32 Department of Children and Families of such custody.

33 (b) The Department of Children and Families shall assume the care
34 and control of the infant immediately upon receipt of notice under
35 subsection (a) of this section.

36 (c) Any infant in the care and control of the department under the
37 provisions of this section shall be considered to be in the custody of the
38 department.

39 Sec. 4. (NEW) (a) If a person claiming to be a parent or agent of an
40 infant left with a designated employee under section 2 of this act
41 submits a request to the Commissioner of Children and Families for
42 reunification with the infant, the commissioner may identify, contact
43 and investigate such person or agent to determine if such reunification
44 is appropriate or if the parental rights of the parent should be
45 terminated.

46 (b) Information concerning a parent or agent or infant left with a
47 designated employee shall be confidential.

48 (c) Possession of a bracelet linking the parent or agent to an infant
49 left with a designated employee if parental rights have not been
50 terminated creates a presumption the parent or person has standing to

51 participate in a custody hearing for the infant under chapter 319a of
52 the general statutes and does not create a presumption of maternity,
53 paternity or custody.

54 Sec. 5. (NEW) The Department of Children and Families, in
55 consultation with the Attorney General, shall prepare a public
56 information program about the process established under this act.
57 Such program shall include distribution to mothers and agents of a
58 pamphlet that has the following information: (1) An explanation of the
59 process established by sections 1 to 5, inclusive, of this act; (2) the legal
60 ramifications and protections for the mother or agent; (3) what will
61 happen to the infant; (4) how to contact the Department of Children
62 and Families with questions and the procedures for reunification; (5)
63 the timelines involved in termination of parental rights and adoption;
64 and (6) any other relevant information.

65 Sec. 6. Section 53-21 of the general statutes is repealed and the
66 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

67 (a) Any person who (1) wilfully or unlawfully causes or permits any
68 child under the age of sixteen years to be placed in such a situation
69 that the life or limb of such child is endangered, the health of such
70 child is likely to be injured or the morals of such child are likely to be
71 impaired, or does any act likely to impair the health or morals of any
72 such child, or (2) has contact with the intimate parts, as defined in
73 section 53a-65, of a child under the age of sixteen years or subjects a
74 child under sixteen years of age to contact with the intimate parts of
75 such person, in a sexual and indecent manner likely to impair the
76 health or morals of such child, or (3) permanently transfers the legal or
77 physical custody of a child under the age of sixteen years to another
78 person for money or other valuable consideration or acquires or
79 receives the legal or physical custody of a child under the age of
80 sixteen years from another person upon payment of money or other
81 valuable consideration to such other person or a third person, except in
82 connection with an adoption proceeding that complies with the
83 provisions of chapter 803, shall be guilty of a class C felony.

84 (b) Any parent or agent who leaves an infant thirty days or younger
85 with a designated employee pursuant to section 2 of this act shall not
86 be guilty of a violation under this section.

87 Sec. 7. Section 53-23 of the general statutes is repealed and the
88 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

89 (a) Any person having the charge of any child under the age of six
90 years who exposes it in any place, with intent wholly to abandon it,
91 shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars and imprisoned not
92 more than five years.

93 (b) Any parent or agent who leaves an infant thirty days or younger
94 with a designated employee pursuant to section 2 of this act shall not
95 be guilty of a violation under this section.

KID Committee Vote: Yea 12 Nay 0 JFS C/R JUD